

REMARKS

Applicants will address each of the Examiner's rejections in the order in which they appear in the Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 6-7, 19-20, 31, 48 and 50-51

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 6-7, 19-20, 31, 48 and 50-51 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyashita et al. (WO 98/24271 - English equivalent, US Patent Publication No. 2002/0041926) in view of Iguchi (WO 98/27579 - English equivalent, US Patent Publication No. 2002/0009536) and Kasubuchi et al. (US 3,878,517). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, independent Claim 6 recites “discharging liquid comprising an organic light-emitting material to a pixel column over a substrate from a nozzle by contacting a contact element attached to the nozzle to a bank” (emphasis added).

As the Examiner admits, Miyashita '271 does not disclose this claimed feature. The Examiner, however, also cites Iguchi ('579) in support of this rejection, and contends that “‘579 teaches that when depositing electroluminescent material between partition walls of EL display ([0001]-[0003]), it is desirable to maintain a constant distance between the substrate and the nozzles, and that such distance may be maintained by an element in contact with the partitions ([0246]-[0249]).” Even if this is true (which Applicants do not admit), as Applicants previously explained, Iguchi '579 does not disclose or suggest discharging liquid from a nozzle by contacting a contact element to a bank, as recited in independent Claim 6. Rather, at most, Iguchi '579 teaches

that the contact sensor is used to maintain a constant distance between the substrate and the nozzles, and is not used for the claimed step of discharging liquid.

The Examiner, however, contends that the argument that Iguchi '579 does not teach discharging liquid from a nozzle by contacting a contact element to a bank is unconvincing. In support thereof, the Examiner argues that "... '579 discharges its ink while contacting a contact element to the bank. Therefore, the contact is sufficient to allow the discharge of ink." Applicants respectfully disagree.

It is respectfully submitted that Iguchi '579 only teaches that the height sensor 40 can be a non-contact type "or contact type using a dial guage or differential transformer etc." [0249] in Iguchi '579. Hence, Iguchi '579 does not explicitly teach or suggest that the liquid comprising an organic light-emitting material is discharged from a nozzle by contacting a contact element attached to the nozzle to the bank. As a result, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest the claimed method, and the rejection based thereon is insufficient and improper.

It is respectfully submitted that if the Examiner is going to maintain this rejection, he needs to detail and cite how Iguchi '579 explicitly teaches this claimed feature and where in Iguchi '579 it shows liquid is discharged from a nozzle by contacting a contact element attached to the nozzle to a bank.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest the method of independent Claim 6 or those claims dependent thereon. Therefore, the claims are patentable over the cited references, and the rejection is improper. Hence, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 26

The Examiner also rejects Claim 26 under 35 USC §103(a) over Miyashita in view of Iguchi, and Kasubuchi and further in view of Kurosawa et al. (US 6,057,647). This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Claim 26 is a dependent claim. Accordingly, it is patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above for independent Claim 6. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 49

The Examiner also rejects Claim 49 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyashita in view of Iguchi and Kasubuchi and further in view of Horike (US 4,281,332). This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Claim 49 is a dependent claim. Accordingly, it is patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above for independent Claim 6. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

New Claim

Applicants are adding new Claim 52 herewith. This claim is a dependent claim. Accordingly, it is patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above for independent Claim 6.

Further, Claim 52 recites that the liquid comprising said organic light-emitting material is discharged through the contact element. This is supported by, for example, Figs. 13B and 13C and

page 39 of the present application. It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest this claimed feature.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this claim be entered and allowed.

It is not believed that a fee is due for this new claim. If a fee should be due, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants are also submitting an information disclosure statement (IDS) herewith. It is respectfully requested that this IDS be entered and considered prior to the issuance of any further action for this application.

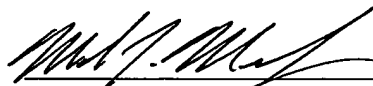
Conclusion

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in an allowable condition and should be allowed.

Please charge our deposit account 50/1039 for any further fee for this amendment.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark J. Murphy', is written over a horizontal line.

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